

GREATER LINCOLN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD WORKFORCE BOARD MEETING

June 9, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

**City Council Chambers, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE
Room 101**

Minutes

Committee members present: Travis Beck, Tim Bornemeier, Chris Callahan, Jane Goertzen, Jessica Greenwald, Leon Holloway, Julie Panko Haberman, Sherla Post, Randy Sterns, Carol Swigart, and Diane Temme Stinton; present virtually Rod Armstrong, Jessica Bergman, Connie Daly, and Matt Scott. Members absent: Melissa Carpenter, Debra Cremeens-Risinger, Pat Haverty, Paul Illich, Steve Jones, Ron Kaminski, Ashley Krajewski, Joanne Pickrel, Vi See, and Sue White

Board Consultants:

Gary Targoff, present virtually
Shirley Carlson, present virtually

City of Lincoln Staff:

Dylan Wren, Mayor's Office
Margaret Blatchford, Law
Thomas Lannin, Finance

ResCare Workforce Services Staff:

Andy Huls
Cherisa Price-Wells
Terry Eklund

Others:

Bryan Seck, LPED present virtually
Christina Thaut, SCC, present virtually

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Tim Bornemeier, Chairperson who announced that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Act was available in the meeting room. Notice of this meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on March 6, 2020 and was posted on the City of Lincoln's website and on the Board's webpage.

Attendance was taken by roll call; eleven of the twenty-five members of the Board were present (Beck, Bornemeier, Callahan, Goertzen, Greenwald, Holloway, Panko Haberman, Post, Sterns, Swigart, and Temme Stinton) which did not constitute a quorum. Rod Armstrong, Jessica Bergman, Connie Daly, and Matt Scott joined the meeting virtually. Melissa Carpenter, Debra Cremeens-Risinger, Pat Haverty, Paul Illich, Steve Jones, Ron Kaminski, Ashley Krajewski, Joanne Pickrel, Vi See, and Sue White were absent.

Update

Tim Bornemeier reported that Debra Cremeens-Risinger has accepted a new position as Director for the Missouri State Office of Apprenticeship in St. Louis. She will be relinquishing her seat on this Board. The Board will recruit to fill that seat. Dylan Wren was introduced as the new Workforce Administrator for the Board.

Update on the Greater Lincoln American Job Center (AJC)

Andy Huls, One-Stop Operator, reported that the number of members being served has stayed consistent since June 2019 and is steady despite the pandemic. There has been an increase of unemployment assistance in the last few months. Because staff has remained working in office, they have been able to accommodate those increased demands. The pandemic safety procedures have slowed the process and increased some wait times at the AJC. They have served less of the re-entry population in recent months due to pandemic safety requirements keeping them from being able to come to the AJC. Huls reported that the pandemic has primarily impacted the Center by increasing the number of unemployment claims and the overall number of phone calls that they receive. The Center is doing their best to answer those calls and assist within the scope of their knowledge. AJC is also seeing an increase in traffic to use the unemployment hotline phone. They have requested an additional line due to the demand. Department of Labor (DOL) is the only workforce partner that continues to work in-office. AJC is receiving current and updated information on a regular basis and are updating those job postings daily. The Center has increased media visibility, highlighting training programs and various hiring needs. A drive through career fair in March was a huge success. They planned for 500 visitors and ran out of materials at that event. They have another similar event planned for July. Approximately 25% of clients are from the 68502 zip code area. Areas of improvement feedback include a need for computer literacy skills and a need to connect clients with partner programs. AJC has been working to correct some of these needs.

Members asked clarifying questions relating to the job fair and projections related to future unemployment needs; staff provided additional information.

Update on Title 1B Programs

Terry Eklund, Project Director for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs, reported that there are 90 active caseloads in the Youth Program; 30 of those are in follow-up. Last month they met the enrollment goals in Saunders County and expect to meet the annual enrollment goals as well. There are total 109 enrollments with a goal of 150 through the month of May. They do not expect to meet the goal of 150 because it has been difficult to reach the youth population with schools out of session due to the pandemic. Every month since January they have either stayed steady or increased enrollments, with an overall increase in enrollments.

Adult Programs has 93 current active caseloads; 30 of those are in follow-up. They have exceeded the Saunders County enrollment goal of 4 adults, with enrolling 5 into Adult Programs this year. The overall goal has been exceeded as well with 115 enrollments and a goal of 105. They are continuing to provide weekly virtual orientation sessions.

Dislocated Workers (DLW) has 36 active caseloads; 15 of those are in follow-up. They do not expect to meet the enrollment goals in Saunders County because there is not a need in that area. They anticipate increases in the future.

Third quarter performance measures: DLW – met all measures at the 90% level; Adults Programs– met all measures except 1 area related employment rate; Youth Programs – met all but 2 areas credential rate and employment after exit of program.

Re-entry program enrollment has created and provided a form to funnel out to corrections to assist with enrollment. The initiative has been “kicking off” and they are expecting to see an increase in enrollments from that population. A lack of enrolling in Selective Service has been an issue and they are assisting clients with completing that. They are working closely with TET DLW grant that Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) oversees, as well as TANF and JobCorp. There have been co-enrollments with all of these agencies.

Virtual YES program is a Youth program that meets twice a month to provide virtual workshops. They have been very successful and have had up to 13 youths participate. This was an effort to ensure the youth clients stay engaged during the pandemic.

Work-based learning is a way to help individuals gain on-the-job training to meet long-term goals of fulltime employment. The last few pay periods have seen an increase with over 300 hours of work-based learning for clients. Eklund believes the numbers would be even higher but for some clients having to quarantine.

Eklund praised team members for great service that they have provided during the pandemic changes.

Members asked questions relating to challenges for clients who do not complete credentialing and about working more closely with the Board; staff provided additional information.

Update on Carry-in Funds

Dylan Wren, Mayor's Office, reported that there will be an overall increase in funds. DLW funds will decrease. The budget will be submitted to the State for approval. Adult Program funds that have not been expended during the current year are more than 20% and could be requested back by the State. Typically a carry-in amount is limited to 20%. Wren showed the overhead staff costs, direct aid to customers amounts, pay for performance totals, and other budget categories. Youth Program budget has a high carry-in amount as well. He discussed enrollment goals and budget numbers. This was just for informative purposes and cannot be voted on due to lack of quorum.

Revision to Work-based Learning Policy

Rod Armstrong reported that language for the Greater Lincoln Workforce Board is inconsistent with both the United States and Nebraska DOL language in regard to work experience, specifically relating to “hiring freezes”. The Board will need to hold a vote to change that language but cannot due to lack of quorum.

Monitoring Schedule for PY20

Shirley Carlson reported that the upcoming year needs to be updated and follow the same schedule as the State. This was just for informative purposes and cannot be voted on due to lack of quorum.

New Committee Formations

Tim Bornemeier reported that two new committees were recently formed. The first to oversee the AJC Certification; the second to find a new AJC location.

Julie Panko Haberman reported that the certification review team includes Jessica Bergmann, Travis Beck, Connie Daly, Cristina Thaut, and Ashley Krajewski. The team completed the review on May 28th and did find some deficiencies; 4 under effectiveness criteria, 2 under physical accessibility, 1 under programmatic accessibility, and 2 under continuous improvement. Due to these deficiencies, the

committee suggests a conditional certification period with a second on-site evaluation within the first 60 days.

Carol Swigart reported that the committee for the relocation of the AJC has been formed. Last week they met with City procurement and Margaret Blatchford, City Law, to learn about the process and requirements for the new facility.

General Updates

Dylan reported updates on Strategic Initiative Committee developing a website. The committee has also been discussing partnering with UNL for continuing improvement in workforce development.

Without a quorum, there being no further discussion and no public comment Tim Bornemeier adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.